

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 21, amend claims 1, 10, and 11 and add new claims 22-27 as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Image data processing apparatus, comprising a plurality of image processing systems in which each of said image processing systems has direct access to a respective frame storage means; and a network connecting said image processing systems together so as to allow each connected image processing system to indirectly access the frame storage means of the other connected image processing systems; wherein each image processing system ~~includes~~ comprises:

_____ (a) a local configuration file specifying details of its respective locally connected storage means;

_____ (b) a network configuration data structure; and

_____ (c) network communication means; wherein, said network communication means is arranged to:

(i) _____ transmit details of its associated local configuration file to other networked image systems; and to

(ii) _____ automatically add local configuration data details, from other networked image systems, to its associated network configuration data structure in response to configuration details received ~~receiving the local configuration details from other networked~~ image processing systems.

2. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data processing systems are based around a silicon graphics O₂, Octane or Onyx2 computer.

3. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data storage systems include a plurality of disks configured to receive image stripes.

4. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus according to claim 3, including redundant disks to provide data security.

5. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said disks are configured as a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID).

6. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network includes a high bandwidth switching means.

7. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said high bandwidth switching means is a fibre channel switch.

8. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network communication means is an Ethernet network.

9. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus according to claim 1, including a local disk drive, wherein said configuration data is stored on said local disk drive.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Apparatus according to claim 1, including ~~the~~ a high bandwidth fibre channel switch and a low bandwidth Ethernet, wherein image data is transferred over said high bandwidth fibre channel switch and said configuration data is transferred over said Ethernet.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of automatically writing network configuration data structures in a networked image data processing environment, including comprising a plurality of image processing systems in which each of said image processing systems has direct access to a respective frame storage means, wherein each image processing system includes a local configuration file specifying details of its respective locally connected storage means, a network configuration data structure, and network communication means; and a network connecting said image processing systems together so as to allow each connected image processing system to indirectly access the frame storage means of the other connected image processing systems; wherein said method performs the steps of:

transmitting details of local system configuration data to other networked processing systems, and

automatically adding local configuration data details, from other networked processing systems, to a the local network configuration data structure in response to configuration details received-receiving the local configuration details from other networked image processing systems.

12. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, configured for execution upon a silicon graphics O₂, Octane or Onyx2 computer.

13. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein image frames are divided into a plurality of stripes and said stripes are directed to respective disk storage devices.

14. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 13, including a process of generating redundant data and supplying said redundant data to a redundant disk thereby providing a degree of security.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, wherein said disks are arranged as a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID).

16. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein said network includes a high bandwidth switching means.

17. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 16, wherein said high bandwidth switching means is a fibre channel switch.

18. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein said network communication means is an Ethernet network.

19. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein said configuration data is stored on a local disk drive.

20. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein image data is transferred over a high bandwidth fibre channel switch and configuration data is transferred over an Ethernet network.

21. (CANCELLED)

22. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the local configuration file comprises framestore information only for the respective locally connected storage means and interface information only for the image processing system.

23. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein:

- (a) the framestore information comprises:
 - (i) a name for a framestore;
 - (ii) a hardware address for the framestore; and
 - (iii) a framestore identification reference number; and
- (b) the interface information comprises protocol and address information for every network to which the image processing system is connected.

24. (NEW) The method of claim 11 wherein the local configuration file comprises framestore information only for the respective locally connected storage means and interface information only for the image processing system.

25. (NEW) The method of claim 24 wherein:

- (a) the framestore information comprises:
 - (i) a name for a framestore;
 - (ii) a hardware address for the framestore; and
 - (iii) a framestore identification reference number; and
- (b) the interface information comprises protocol and address information for every network to which the image processing system is connected.

26. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the network configuration data structure comprises:

framestore information for each frame storage means connected to image processing systems on the network; and

interface information for one interface for each image processing system on the network that identifies the fastest interface between each image processing system on the network and a current image processing system.

27. (NEW) The method of claim 11 wherein the network configuration data structure comprises:

framestore information for each frame storage means connected to image processing systems on the network; and

interface information for one interface for each image processing system on the network that identifies the fastest interface between each image processing system on the network and a current image processing system.